

man, still meets with a less ready reception from us than among any of the European nations. Forgetful of our Asiatic origin and descent, forgetful that our Saviour bore the dark hue of his nativity, we seem to cling to such prejudices with a tenacity that can only be loosened by rude shocks.

There are questions in regard to race that I do not pretend to solve. That our origin was one I do not doubt. That differences that have grown up have resulted mainly from divergences of climate I believe. That institutions and systems mold the character of a people I feel sure. That our manhood is different, that there is not one Providence for all, I deny. And where is the difficulty in resting right here? Why have we to make a better plan for the Almighty than he has made for himself?—George F. Seward.

#### ECHOES OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY ELECTION.

A letter written by Mayor Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, O., to the Cleveland Press, and published in the Press of November 6.

Editor Cleveland Press: An equitable and reasonable plan of taxation was the issue on which the election in this county was won. For six months the inequalities and injustices of the present system have been made plain. We have continually labored to bring this question home to the people, and have persisted in showing up the evils of the present administration of our taxation laws and the necessities for some statutory changes.

The victory is to be accounted for, by the following facts:

We are now engaged in an assessment of real estate that but for our efforts would have remained unchanged for ten years.

Its unequal burdens were admitted by all, including the guilty board that performed most of the work and the republican committee that advertised the board's shortcomings.

The annual city board of equalization, appointed by this administration, has added nearly \$20,000,000 to the tax duplicate by assessments on the municipal monopolies.

The county auditors refused to assess steam railroads by the same rule that they assessed farms and homes.

Four republican state officers, by a cowardly subterfuge, refused to put \$200,000,000 of steam railroad property on the tax duplicate.

Finally, our opponents were utterly bewildered in meeting these issues.

It was foolish to attempt to meet this array of arguments with evasion, silence or "let well enough alone" policies; but the greatest folly was the attempt to mislead the people by silly personalities and mud-throwing.

The result shows that the people, regardless of party, were deeply interested in the subject and is a complete indorsement of the policy of tax equalization.

In an election where a real issue is raised it is worse than folly to attempt to either obscure or evade the question.

TOM L. JOHNSON.

#### UNJUST TAXATION THE CAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL WAR.

An extract from a sermon delivered in the Vine street Congregational church, Cincinnati, November 17, by the pastor, the Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow.

At the bottom of most of the wars of history there is to be found the question of taxation. Take the three great events which stand out as the milestones of Anglo-Saxon liberty.

Prominent among the grievances which the people had with King John was oppressive taxation, and the Magna Charta which they wrested from him provided that no tax "shall be imposed for our realm save by the common council of our realm."

The English revolution began with Hampden's refusal to pay the ship money, and ended in the famous declaration of rights, which was written in the blood of a king, and which declared: "Levying money for the use of the crown, without grant of parliament, is illegal."

The American revolution is the next scene in the great drama. That began with the Boston tea party, and was fought to vindicate the principle of no taxation without representation.

These civil and international feuds in which so much of the energy of mankind has been consecrated to hatred and death, were caused more by ignorance as to the right way to raise taxes, than by any innate desire in man for war and bloodshed.

A machine will not stand the strain of its work and give satisfaction until it has been constructed on correct principles. It is so with the machinery of government. Much of the friction and fatality have been due to incorrect principles of government. The most important power of government is the power to tax. If, therefore, taxes are not raised in accordance with correct principles, if in the

performance of its chief function the government is fundamentally wrong, political corruption and economic distress are to be expected. The conflicts between organized labor and monopolistic capital amount to a kind of chronic civil war. At the bottom of this industrial war is the question of taxation. Until this question is settled right the work of the arbitrator, will not be blessed. We cannot have industrial peace while the cause of industrial war exists. That cause, more than any other single cause, is a barbarous system of taxation.

True, greed is a factor. The work of improving civil government is blocked by powerful interests seeking special favors. Our real enemy, however, is not the greed of the few, but the ignorance of the many. There is no more important work than to teach people what may be done by a right system of taxation to discourage favoritism and corruption and promote a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Our present system of raising public revenue by levying a tax upon all property would not be just even if it were administered by angels. What wonder, therefore, that human beings have found it a stumbling block?

#### FREE TRADE THE TRUE PROTECTION.

For The Public.

The wool-growers of Montana regard an advocate of free trade with South America as a sort of infringement on their rights. It is conceded on all hands that the long-promised subsidy to agriculture, to wit, national aid for irrigation, is about to be granted. The immediate visible result will be a revival of homeseeking in the arid west. Soon the number of people in the western states will equal the number of sheep. At present it is claimed that the range will not support any more sheep. The production of wool has not increased annually in proportion to the population of the United States. This fact shows the existence of some stronger power than the law of supply and demand, which has a firm grip on the wool market.

Republicans and democrats believe in majority rule. The former favor the majority of dollars, the latter the majority of men.

When irrigation at actual cost is obtained homemade expansion will be well started on its conquering career. Every occupation and industry will be represented among the people who will cross the border into British